

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01

SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20

STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10

NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 L-03 H-03

DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 PM-07 OIC-04 SPM-01

DRC-01 AGR-20 SWF-02 /265 W

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R 031830Z JUL 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6855

INFO USUN NEW YORK 593

UNCLAS GENEVA 4233

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, ENEG, UN

SUBJECT: 57TH ECOSOC - ITEM #1: OPENING OF SESSION

SUMMARY - KARHILO, ECOSOC PRESIDENT AND SYG WALDHEIM IN OPENING REMARKS HIGHLIGHTED IMPORTANCE OF 6TH SPECIAL SESSION OF GA, WARNED OF DIRE CONSEQUENCES IF WORLD COMMUNITY IS UNABLE TO MEET CHALLENGES, AND STRESSED NEED FOR RATIONALIZATION UN MACHINERY. END SUMMARY

1, FOLLOWING EXPRESSION OF CONDOLENCES OVER DEATH OF PRESIDENT PERON OF ARGENTINA, AND ARGENTINE REPLY, KARHILO MADE INTRODUCTORY REMARKS SUMMARIZING MAIN WORK OF THE COUNCIL: NEED TO ACT ON PROGRAM FOR 1975 SPECIAL GA, PROVISION POLICY GUIDELINES FOR WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, DISCUSSION OF ASSISTANCE TO MSA'S AND QUESTION OF MNC'S NEED DISCUSSION ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, WITH VIEW TO EXAMINING PRIORITIES WITH REGARD ALLOCATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL UNCLASSIFIED

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RESEARCH. SPEECH MADE POINT OF STATING THAT POINT OF

DEPARTURE FOR 57TH SESSION WAS 6TH SPECIAL GA, AT WHICH TIME "WE" PLEDGED TO MAKE EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH NEW ECONOMIC ORDER. GENERAL CONTEXT 57TH SESSION IS TO BE IN ATMOSPHERE OF OBSOLESENCE OF BRETON WOODS SYSTEM, GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT POPULATION IS TO SOON DOUBLE, GROWING AWARENESS OF LDCS OF WORLD PROBLEMS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THEM. NOTED THAT FUTURE LOOKED "GLOOMY" IF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DID NOT TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

2. IN HIS SPEECH WALDHEIM MENTIONED 6TH SPECIAL GA 11 TIMES, WHICH PRESENTED AS IMPORTANT STEPPING STONE IN COMING TO GRIPS WITH WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN 6TH SPECIAL GA WALDHEIM CONTENDED THAT THE WORLD COMMUNITY RECOGNIZED ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT COLLECTIVELY ON THE MATTER OF THE MALFUNCTIONING OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM; THAT IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE 6TH SPECIAL GA THAT THE WORLD COMMUNITY FOCUSED ON IMMEDIATE DAY-TO-DAY ISSUES WHICH IN THE PAST HAD BEEN LEFT TO SPECIALIZED BODIES; AND THAT THE 6TH SPECIAL GA ENGENDERED A MEMENTUM THAT MUST BE MAINTAINED.

3. IN SPEAKING OF THE BREAKDOWN OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC MACHINERY, WALDHEIM WARNED THAT LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARD ITS REPAIR "WOULD REINFORCE TENDENCIES TO SEEK SECURITY AND A FALSE AND PERILOUS RELIANCE ON THE ABILITY OF INDIVIDUAL NATIONS OR GROUPS OF NATIONS TO ACT IN ISOLATION." IN SPEAKING TO QUESTION OF INFLATION, HE WARNED THAT IN THEIR EFFORTS TO COPE WITH INFLATION THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES ARE "EXPOSING THEMSELVES TO THE EQUAL EVIL OF RECESSION WHICH COULD BE MORE PRONOUNCED AND WIDESPREAD IN ITS CONSEQUENCES THAN ANY OF THOSE KNOWN SINCE 1945." IN THE SAME CONTEXT, HE WARNED THAT "IF INDIVIDUAL CORRECTIVE MEASURES ARE APPLIED TOO VIGOROUSLY AND ON A SHORT-TERM BASIS AND IF THEY ARE UNDERTAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY OR IN RAPID SUCCESSION BY SEVERAL OF THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES, THESE ACTIONS COULD CAUSE A SUDDEN CONTRACTION OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY WITH VERY FAR-REACHING AND SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES."

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4. ALMOST ONE-HALF OF SYG'S SPEECH SPENT ON NEED FOR UN TO OVERHAUL AND STRENGTHEN ITS INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY IF IT IS TO MEET THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE 6TH SPECIAL GA. IN THIS CONTEXT HE MADE REFERENCE TO THE COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY SYSTEM, THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES, NEW MODALITIES FOR FINANCIAL COOPERATION IN THE IMF. HE NOTED THAT THE PRINCIPAL TASK OF

THE 57TH SESSION IS TO MOVE THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK
TO REACH A CAPABILITY OF TRANSLATING AGREEMENTS AND
INSIGHTS INTO PRACTICAL ACTION. ALSO NOTED NEED TO
RATIONALIZE WORK IN TERMS OF KNOWLEDGE, ANALYSIS AND
ASSESSMENT, NOTING THAT PRESENT MACHINERY INADEQUATE,
AND SUGGESTING THAT A WISE USE OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY
WOULD BE HELPFUL.

5. IN VARIOUS CONTEXTS, WALDHEIM ALSO MENTIONED PROBLEMS
OF FOOD PRODUCTION, AND NEED TO DEVELOP WORLD-WIDE
PLANNING SUCH AS THE UN HAS NOT SEEN BEFORE, NOT ONLY
FOR FOOD BUT FOR FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDES AS WELL.
ALSO ENERGY, POPULATION AND MNC'S CAME IN FOR THEIR
SHARE OF COMMENT.

6. COPY WALDHEIM SPEECH BEING POUCED. DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA04233
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740177-0856
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740778/aaaacorg.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 OCT 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 57TH ECOSOC - ITEM #1: OPENING OF SESSION SUMMARY - KARHILO, ECOSOC PRESIDENT AND SYG WALDHEIM
TAGS: ENRG, XX, UNGA, UN, ECOSOC, (WALDHEIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005